

**ABERDEEN TEST CENTER
FIREPOWER, SMALL ARMS SYSTEMS DIVISION
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21005-5059**



FROM: Commander U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center ATTN: CSTE-DTC-AT-FP-S Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5059		FAX: DSN 298-8634 410-278-8634 CONFIRMATION: (b)(6) 410-278-
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Date: 24 Jan '06	Signature: (b)(6)	



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY DEVELOPMENTAL TEST COMMAND
314 LONGS CORNER ROAD
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21006-5066

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CSTE-DTC-TM-T (70-10p)

6 APRIL 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR Director, Rapid Equipping Force (REF), (b)(6) 10236
Burbeck Road, Building 361T, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia 22060-5852

SUBJECT: Safety Confirmation for the Enhanced Battle Rifle Chassis Stock System for the Rifle, 7.62MM, M14 in Support of the Rapid Equipping Force

1. References:

a. Brochure, Sage International, Ltd. undated, subject: Enhanced Battle Rifle Chassis Stock System.

b. Manual, NSWC Crane, 1 Mar 05, subject: Overhaul and New Build Procedures for MK 14 MOD 0 Enhanced Battle Rifle (EBR) 7.62mm NATO.

c. Manual, NSWC Crane, undated, subject: Operator's Manual for Rifle, 7.62MM MK 14 MOD 0. Enhanced Battle Rifle (EBR).

d. Memorandum, NSWC Crane, Code 4081, 10 Apr 03, subject: M14 Enhanced Battle Rifle (M14 EBR).

e. NOSSA, N715, 6 May 03, subject: Weapon System Explosives Safety Review Board Safety Concurrence For Fielding the M14 Enhanced Battle Rifle.

f. FONECON, 5 Apr 06, between (b)(6) Sage International, Ltd., and (b)(6) DTC, subject: Installation Instructions for M14 or M14 Rifle Actions into the Sage International, Ltd. Enhanced Battle Rifle (EBR) Stock.

g. Manual, Sage International, Ltd. undated, subject: Installation Instructions for M14 or M14 Rifle Actions into the Sage International, Ltd. Enhanced Battle Rifle (EBR) Stock.

2. Purpose: To provide a DTC Safety Confirmation for the M14 Rifle components mounted in an Enhanced Battle Rifle Chassis Stock System (CSS) in support of the Rapid Equipping Force.

3. System Description: According to reference 1a, the Chassis Stock System replaces the standard wooden stock of the M14 Rifle. It is manufactured by Sage International, Ltd, Oscoda, MI. The chassis is precision machined from a solid billet of high-strength, aircraft-grade aluminum. Standard M14 actions are installed using existing M14 tools making it a "drop-in" conversion. The increased rigidity of the chassis increases weapon accuracy and reliability.



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Figure 1. The Chassis Stock System.

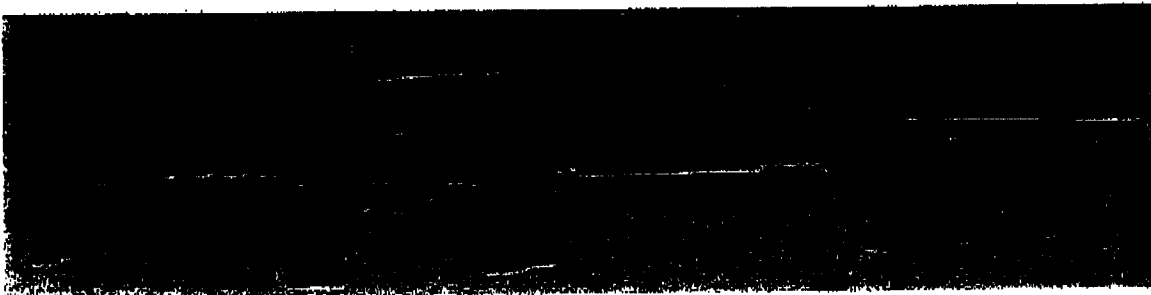


Figure 2. A M14 Enhanced Battle Rifle (the telescopic sight is not part of the kit).

a. The EBR chassis has a collapsible stock and a full size soft recoil pad. This feature allows the shooter to adjust the length of pull to fit his arm length, body armor, and uniform.

b. The EBR chassis also has an adjustable cheek rest which has a 2 inch range in $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch increments. This feature allows the shooter to adjust the cheek weld to fit his individual frame.

4. Limiting Factors: DTC did not perform any testing on this item. All of the information for this safety confirmation was gathered from the references.

5. Evaluation Results:

a. Reference 1a provided a description of the Chassis Stock System. Reference 1b describes the process to convert a M14 Rifle into a MK14 MOD 0 and enumerates the parts that are upgraded (principally a shorter barrel [18 inch vs. 22 inch] and improved sights). Reference 1c is the Operator's Manual for the MK14 MOD 0 Enhanced Battle Rifle. Reference 1d is a memorandum from NSWC Crane to the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity (NOSSA) describing the development of the MK14 variation of the M14 Rifle. Reference

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1e is a memorandum from NOSSA to NSWC Crane granting the Navy's equivalent of a safety release for Operational Testing and, barring any safety problems, the Navy's equivalent of a safety confirmation for fielding. During reference 1f, the procedures for converting the standard M14 to the M14 EBR were requested. Reference 1g are those conversion instructions.

b. In summary, the M14 EBR CSS provides a mounting platform for the functioning parts of the M14 Rifle and does not adversely effect the operation of those parts. The Receiver, Trigger Assembly, Bolt Assembly, Bolt Release, Operating Rod, Gas Cylinder Assembly, Operating Spring & Guide, Iron Sights, Barrel, Flash Suppressor, and Magazine remain the same. The Operating Rod Guide is replaced by a new design that bolts to the chassis. The Front Band is no longer required.

c. (b)(6) Sage International, Ltd. reports that they have delivered approximately 3312 stocks; 2127 to military organizations and 1175 to non-military buyers and have had no reported safety incidents

6. Conclusions and Recommendations: Based upon the above, it is concluded that the Enhanced Battle Rifle Chassis Stock System for the M14 Rifle has no uncontrolled safety or health hazards and is safe to operate. Consequently, a DTC safety confirmation is issued for the subject system with the restrictions and limitations listed below. If the restrictions and limitations are followed, it is considered LOW Risk.

a. The installation of the M14 components to the Chassis Stock System must be made by trained personnel in accordance with the appropriate manuals.

b. Single hearing protection (plugs or muffs) should be worn by all personnel within 40 meters of the firing positions.

c. The weapons must be operated and maintained in accordance with the relevant manuals.

d. The appropriate misfire procedures should be followed should a misfire occur.

7. The DTC points of contact are (b)(6) CSTE-DTC-TM-T, (b)(6) /FAX DSN 298-9169, (b)(6) and (b)(6) CSTE-DTC-TM-T, DSN (b)(6) FAX DSN 298-9169, (b)(6).

(b)(6)

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